

~~SECRET~~  
Security Information

Official Diary

Friday, 23 January 1953

1. At the morning meeting commented as follows respecting the present intelligence situation:

a. Throughout the Soviet world there was a posture of watchful waiting, probably in order to ascertain the precise direction the new Administration was going to take.

b. The China-Korea build-up was still evaluated as primarily defensive, in preparation for any intensification of the Far East war by the new Administration, but I thought that there was reasonable ground for anticipating spoiling attacks some time in February. I pointed out that OCI had recently reviewed the evidence in detail and had found no firm indications of imminent action. In the past about ten days' notice, in the form of PW reports and forward displacements, had been obtained.

c. With respect to the current trials, I again mentioned the possible AE implications and referred to the suggestion that the Soviets might believe that the atomic imbalance which existed prior to 1949 had been recreated. This would require the closest watching and all of our people have ~~25X6A~~ alerted.

d. With respect to Egypt, I commented that ~~██████████~~ expected outbreaks on the 26th of January, the anniversary of previous outbreaks, and I agreed with them.

25X1A9a 25X1X6

2. ~~██████████~~ spoke to me respecting a report they had picked up from Guatemala through a relatively unreliable person named ~~██████████~~ ~~██████████~~ indicated that one ~~██████████~~ a Guatemalan officer close to President Arbenz, had indicated that the Guatemalan government was prepared to orient itself very much more on the side of the United States and desired some contact through which this might be done. He requested an evaluation of this report, in view of the unreliability of ~~██████████~~ I indicated that my off-the-cuff evaluation would be that this report tied in with other reports we have had that the Guatemalan government will continue its pro-Communist orientation, but will make nice noises to the United States in order to secure equipment and other economic benefits, which they are anxious to increase. I have requested ~~██████████~~ to secure OCI's evaluation.

25X1A9a

(cont'd.)

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3. Introduced 25X1A9a

4. Attended a briefing of Ambassador Aldrich. During the briefing the question came up as to whether files of NIEs were maintained in the embassies overseas, and I relied upon the Director's views in stating that they were not. This was questioned subsequently by 25X1A9a and I thereupon requested 25X1A9a to make a survey as to overseas distribution of NIEs, and whether or not they were returned to Washington. In any event, I am going to suggest that we make up a packet consisting of appropriate portions of the National Intelligence Digest plus more recent NIEs for each of the new major ambassadors. These would be sent 25X1A6a and shown to the Ambassador (and possibly one or two of his senior assistants) on an "Eyes-Only" basis. Ambassador Aldrich was very anxious that this be done, since he did not have an opportunity to digest this material prior to his departure for London.

5. With Mr. Dulles, attended the briefing of the Early Warning Committee appointed by Sec/Def. As a result of an incident which occurred just prior to this briefing, I instructed 25X1A9a to have available in this office at all times at least one copy of the General's Little Black Book.

6. DCI informed me respecting the Presidential briefing which is to occur as the first item on next Wednesday's National Security Council meeting. The briefing is to be given by 25X1A9a is to last thirty minutes, and is to cover (1) the Soviet world, (2) the Middle East, (3) China-Korea, (4) Southeast Asia. Appropriately instructed 25X1A9a

7. During the evening 25X1A9a phoned and informed me:

a. That 25X1X6 had some information of interest to the Agency and

b. That Douglas Dillon, the new Ambassador to France, desired a briefing by us. I am to arrange this through Mr. McBride of State.

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